



MRHS PTSA Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
MRHS

Call to Order and Introduction: 7:05 p.m. with 10 members present.

SGA Report: No report

Staff Report, Mr. Mark Dubbs: Mark Dubbs is the longest tenured teacher at MRHS with 34 years and has been at MRHS since it opened. He has taught just about every subject and all grades but is a fixture in the Social Studies Dept. He works with the MD Council of Education-Economics and with the Advanced Placement Program for Human Geography. He reported that the MRHS Social Studies department has very successfully provided a broad range of electives including psychology, government, and economics.

- There is a need for additional semester-long courses that can accommodate student scheduling needs, and Economics can easily be split into Micro/Macro semester courses.
- MRSH Students average well over 3 on the AP exam.
- Mr. Dubbs and the Social Studies Team Lead just attended the National Social Studies Education Conference, and they “team teach” with other highschool Social Studies departments to provide enriched content and additional virtual instruction to students.
- Mr. Dubbs is also the Coach for the MRHS Golf team (they finished 2nd in MD this year) and he can be spotted at many of the school’s extracurricular activities.

Principal’s Report, Dr. DiPaula:

- MRHS’ first floor flooded on Christmas morning. Maintenance did a great job handling the issue and clearing. School events were not affected.
- Midterm Madness - an event managed by the 9th grade team leader was held online last week. It was not widely attended, but was very well received by participants.
- The after school prep sessions for exams were successful. The drop-in afterschool program will start back up on Jan 24 and run Tues-Thurs (until May). NHS tutors are also available to students.
- There will be no extracurriculars this week due to exams.
- Junior interviews will be March 22nd and the school is looking for volunteer interviewers who can provide students with general interview experience for employment/education.
- Morgan’s message - a mental health awareness event for athletes - will be held at Glenelg HS on Jan 30th.
- Counselors are meeting with students now to do course registration

- SGA is working on a spring prep rally. The school is too big to fit in the gym so they are limited by weather as they have to go outside (and they have to work around assessments).
- There is a new Drama Teacher - Grease will be held in February.

President's Report: If you or anyone you know are interested in serving as PTSA President, please let VP1, VP2 or Corresponding Secretary know. Even if someone can't take it on for the full year, we can recruit for next year.

Treasurer's Report: As of 12/31/22 the PTSA had an ending balance of \$35,172 and everything is currently on budget.

- November income was \$1331.68 from Membership & Hassle Free donations (\$295.90), SAT Prep (\$518.60), and the Chipotle Fundraiser (\$517.18).
- There was \$1,014.90 in disbursements for AfterProm.
- Funds from the Yogi Castle fundraiser will be coming in shortly as well.

Approval of December Minutes: A motion was made to approve the December PTSA minutes. A second was made. All voted in favor to approve the meeting minutes, and they will be posted on the PTA website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senior Banners: The price for banners will probably be \$42/apiece with the profit going towards AfterProm. The committee anticipates hanging the banners by May 1st outside of the auditorium. They will be on sale March 17-April 17. Last year 172 were sold (raising \$3440 for AfterProm). The goal is to sell more this year!

AfterProm Committee: Everything is moving forward for an event at the Stratosphere, but the committee is still waiting on a firm Prom Date. Leesa's committee has been securing prizes while Carolina's committee has been helping with graphics. Dr. DiPaula will send a letter home with students explaining what the event is, why it is important and ways to get involved.

- Mary stressed that the committee's biggest challenge/concern is how to ensure this event is truly inclusive of, and exciting for, every student.
- Friday, May 5th is the anticipated Prom date.

Facebook: All is going well.

Membership: Currently the PTSA has 414 members (a small growth from last month due to staff memberships).

- Many teachers reported incorrect beliefs about PTSA membership (e.g. that membership is a 4-year commitment) and many teachers weren't sure if they had signed up or not. Kathy will share the list of staff members with Dr. DiPaula so he has that information for staff.
- PTSA Members do have access to an electronic student directory, but no one is positive how to access it. Mary will research this.

Fundraising: No report

Store Rewards: No report

Website/Communications: The Website committee needs to update the AfterProm section as soon as the details are confirmed (Mary will send her an update) and update the senior banner section (assigned to Ernestine) with a link to advertisements and payment. There is also nothing in the website's "About" page, but that will be updated once there is a new PTSA President.

Senior Scholarship: Committee members are discussing prompt ideas with a target of Jan 31, 2023 to finalize the prompt and Mark will reach out to the website committee prior to February so they can post marketing material online.

Mental Health: The two Mental Health Committee Chairs are the only two members in the committee but both are well qualified to plan for mental health needs. They've been invited to a meeting with the executive team to discuss how to intentionally launch a mental health initiative at MRHS, and they are currently researching what other schools are doing in this field and how effective the activities MRHS has tried are.

HCDrugFree: No report but there are frequent updates in the school newsletter.

Hospitality: The Hospitality Committee currently has only three members.

Their next event is Feb 22nd and it will be a staff lunch of soup, salad, and dessert for staff. Feb 22 is also bus driver appreciation day and gifts will be given to the 28 buses at dismissal. Items to be confirmed are:

- The number of bus employees to ensure that special education bus aides are also included (Dr. DiPaula);
- The number of staff members expected at the luncheon (Dr. DiPaula); and
- The remaining 2022-2023 budget for the Hospitality Committee (Marrine).

Julie will create one Sign-up genius to request monetary donations for the bus drivers and donated items for the luncheon and send the notice to Kathy for inclusion in the next PTSA newsletter.

Cultural Liaisons: The committee will host a staff lunch this Thursday. Bo will put together a flier announcing the dishes for school staff; she and volunteers will set up Thursday morning in the teachers lounge. Dr. DiPaula will put 4 6-foot tables in the lounge for food, and a cart will be left out in the main office for food drop off.

PTACHC Report: County Council members Deb Jung (District 4) and Christina Rigby (District 3) attended the meeting to discuss County Council priorities for the coming year. These include:

- School start times - the county council is looking to start HS later, so that teens can get more sleep, which is important for growth and also for mental health;

- Teacher Incentive Pay -Nationally board certified teachers can get incentive pay if they are in low-performing schools (none in HoCo qualify), but the County Council is reviewing the model to identify HoCo schools where incentive pay could be incorporated;
- Land use - This is the General Plan, aka "HoCo By Design," which focuses on increasing housing in Columbia by 29K units by 2040, while also trying to accommodate increased needs for services (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance APFO). Developers often avoid paying to increase public facilities like schools, because the county does not have strict APFO policies. They are also considering allowing a developer to avoid the usual waiting periods (if an area's schools are overcrowded, development is supposed to be paused) if the developer makes a "voluntary payment" to offset the overcrowding; and
- Before/after care needs due to family circumstances that would be affected by changing school start times (e.g. HS siblings cannot meet younger siblings at the bus stop).

The County Council is also looking for people to attend public sessions and to send in feedback and/or testify. January 26 is the next County Council meeting date.

- Lisa Krause, RHHS PTSA President - presented "[School Safety Experiences and Advocacy](#)" - the findings for the RHHS School Safety Working Group created after the two October events that caused RHHS to go into lockdown. The RHHS PTSA would be happy to help guide any other PTSAs interested in learning more
- Brent Loveless, Legislative Committee presented. Slides are available on the ptachc.org website

Boosters Liaison: The most recent Boosters meeting was held Jan 11 and addressed the following:

- Boosters has nearly met their corporate sponsorship goal (PTSA receives \$6500 from that) and membership is at 133% of their goal.
- Boosters wants to ensure all sports teams and clubs are getting all of the funds allocated to them. Chris Reagle will send an email to school organizations reminding them of the availability of funds.
- MRHS sports are midway though the season with playoffs starting mid-February, spring registration opens Jan 17th and spring sports start March 1st.
- Boosters is working on the schedule for summer sports camps
- Marty Vanderberg could not be at the meeting. Boosters is waiting on a report from him on the purchase of a large screen for the common area
- Lisa wants to do another end-of-semester reward for students (probably popcorn) and will reach out to those that helped last time to help again.
- The Boosters scholarship is up and running. Essays will be read on March 8 by the Scholarship Committee.
- Mustang Madness will be March 11 at Kelsey's. Tickets can be purchased in advance.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Volunteer Opportunities – PTSA needs a president and a second PTACHC rep if possible.

New Business – N/A

Announcements – Mary was contacted by the Junior SGA President and informed that the Junior class is holding a Coffee House on Feb 10th (5-7:30) in the Commons. They are in need of funds for snacks and Mary will suggest they talk to Boosters. PTSA can advertise the event, and Dr. DiPaula will confirm with the contact person that they have reserved the space and arranged it with the custodial staff.

Meeting Closed – 8:20 PM

The next PTSA meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21st, at 7pm (Virtual).